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BOLIVIA: Dissatisfaction with President Banzer is increasing. (Page 6)

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BOLIVIA: Dissatisfaction with President Banzer is increasing, and a number of plots against him are being reported.

Many military officers distrust the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MNR), one of the political parties in Banzer's National Popular Front. They may hope to weaken the government by making it impossible for the MNR to remain in the coalition. These officers, who are dissatisfied with Banzer's policies, then would hope to take control of the government.

MNR leaders have been trying to convince these officers that the party harbors no subversive intentions, and the recent dismissal of one of its most outspoken leaders may help this aim. The MNR almost withdrew voluntarily from the government two weeks ago after a dispute between MNR chief Victor Paz Estenssoro and the head of the army engineers. Cabinet changes are expected around 20 August, one year after the coup that brought Banzer to power. Although these could help to reconcile the competing interests, Banzer will have to maintain a tricky balancing act.

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